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United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Fellowships on disarmament were awarded to 30 officials, in both 2005 and 2006. Responding to the United Nations efforts to promote gender mainstreaming, Member States nominated more women candidates for the programme. As a result, 12 women participated in 2005 and 11 are expected to participate in 2006. In 2005, the programme lasted from 29 August to 2 November. In 2006, the programme is scheduled to be carried out from 28 August to 1 November.

The programme of studies continued to be structured in three segments. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is aimed primarily at exposing the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. The second segment involves study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, as well as to Member States, at their invitation, including study visits to China (2006), Germany and Japan, to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, and to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. The third segment, held at United Nations Headquarters, is intended to familiarize the fellows with the work of both the First Committee and the Department for Disarmament Affairs. This segment also includes seminars organized by the Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

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To date, the programme has trained 704 officials from 155 Member States, a large number of whom hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments. The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme continues to contribute to enhancing expertise in the field of disarmament in Member States, particularly in developing countries, and to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and a better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success.

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1	3
II.	Programme of fellowships on disarmament	2–18	3
	A. Fellowships for 2005 and 2006	2–4	3
	B. Programme of studies	5–18	5
III.	Conclusion	19–21	8

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 59/97 of 3 December 2004, entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue with the annual Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that mandate.

II. Programme of fellowships on disarmament

A. Fellowships for 2005 and 2006

2. Thirty fellowships were awarded in 2005 to the following officials:

Mustapha Benfriha	Algeria
Andranik Hovhannisyan	Armenia
Carol M. Holmes	Australia
Zoran Spasenovic	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Claudio M. Leopoldino	Brazil
Dieudonné C. Niyuhire	Burundi
Gaien Barka	Chad
Hu Zhongkun	China
Bafétigué Ouattara	Côte d'Ivoire
Fermín G. Quiñones Sánchez	Cuba
Biniam Berhe Tewolde	Eritrea
Nicolas Kasprzyk	France
René-Bertrand N'No Minlaghe	Gabon
Audrey Bampoh	Ghana
Edna V. Castaneda Sagastume	Guatemala
Shorna-Kay Richards	Jamaica
Sewar Masa'Deh	Jordan
Nuran Niyazaliev	Kyrgyzstan
Rimgaile Karčiauskaite	Lithuania
Eman Hussain	Maldives
Rinchenmyadag Shagdar	Mongolia

Fernando Chomar	Mozambique
Muhammad Aftab Qureshi	Pakistan
Enri Ciprian Prieto Tica	Peru
Serge Mario Ndongo	Republic of the Congo
Emilia Sidorova	Russian Federation
Noelani Manoa	Samoa
Marija Stajic	Former Serbia and Montenegro
Do Hung Viet	Viet Nam
Salwa Abdullah Rifaei	Yemen

3. Thirty fellowships were awarded in 2006 to the following officials:

Mariela Adriana Fogante	Argentina
Maleka Parveen	Bangladesh
Tshoki Choden	Bhutan
Jean Bengaly	Burkina Faso
Pablo A. Castro Hermosilla	Chile
Pablo R. Quiñonez Sanz	Ecuador
Hassan Elbahtimy	Egypt
Gustavo A. Argueta Hernandez	El Salvador
George Dolidze	Georgia
Aminata Thiam	Guinea
Birender Singh Yadav	India
Mehdi Aliabadi	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Naoko Kamitani	Japan
Sanita Krumina	Latvia
Edward S. Togba	Liberia
Aedl Issa	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Bong Yik Jui	Malaysia
Yousouf Ramjanally	Mauritius
Marlen Gómez Villaseñor	Mexico

Kalyar Khyne	Myanmar
Sudhir Bhattarai	Nepal
Natalia Fuzhenkova	Russian Federation
Alan Charles Logan	Sierra Leone
Rastislav Gabriel	Slovakia
Dayani Mendis	Sri Lanka
Mohammed Haj Ibrahim	Syrian Arab Republic
Sherali S. Jonomov	Tajikistan
Omer Bedir	Turkey
Angela C. Gjertson	United States of America
Onismo Chigejo	Zimbabwe

4. Over the years, the United Nations efforts to promote gender mainstreaming have resulted in increase in female candidates nominated for the programme and, subsequently, in the number of fellowships granted to them. In the biennium 2005-2006, 23 fellowships were granted to women, compared to 19 in the biennium 2003-2004 and 13 in the biennium 2001-2002.

B. Programme of studies

5. The United Nations programme of fellowships on disarmament is implemented by the Geneva Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. In 2005, the programme lasted from 29 August to 2 November. In 2006, the programme is scheduled to be carried out from 28 August to 1 November. The programme of studies is structured in three segments: (a) activities at the United Nations Office at Geneva; (b) study visits to intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament, as well as to Member States, at their invitation; and (c) activities at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The activities of the 2005 programme are summarized below. The 2006 programme will generally follow the 2005 syllabus, with the necessary updates to reflect the recent developments in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation.

First segment

6. The first segment of the programme, which is held at the United Nations Office at Geneva, is aimed primarily at exposing the fellows to various aspects of multilateral negotiations on disarmament. This is accomplished through attendance at meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and participation in lectures by senior representatives of States members of the Conference and senior representatives of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Geneva International Peace Research Institute and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. In 2005, the fellows also had the opportunity to attend seminars on reviving disarmament (organized by UNIDIR) and

on the Biological Weapons Convention (organized jointly by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and UNIDIR)

7. While in Geneva, the fellows are also required to conduct research and to write the first draft of a paper on a topic of their choice relating to disarmament and international security. Research papers are finalized and then introduced and discussed during the New York segment of the programme.

Second segment

8. The second segment of the programme comprises study visits to three intergovernmental organizations of relevance in the field of disarmament: the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, and two organizations based in Vienna: the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency. In addition, this segment includes study visits to Member States, at their invitation.

9. At the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, fellows are briefed on the mandate and the work of the organization, the genesis and the status of implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the verification procedures of the Convention, the work of the inspectorate and the inspection process, international cooperation and assistance within the framework of the Convention and the role of National Authorities in the implementation of the Convention. Fellows also visit the organization's laboratory where they are familiarized with the inspection equipment and analytical methods.

10. The study visit to the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization includes presentations on the work of the organization, an introduction to the International Monitoring System and a guided visit to the International Data Centre.

11. The study visit to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna comprises presentations and briefings on such topics as: the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, practical and legal aspects of IAEA safeguards, introduction to the functioning of nuclear reactors, and briefing on the IAEA Nuclear Safety Programme. The programme also includes a visit to the IAEA laboratories at Seibersdorf. In 2005, fellows also attended the opening of the forty-ninth IAEA General Conference.

12. For over twenty years, Germany and Japan have been inviting participants in the programme of fellowships on disarmament for study visits to national institutions and for seminars with officials of the respective Governments. The study visits provide the fellows with an invaluable opportunity to become more closely acquainted with the national policies and work of the two Governments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. In 2006, participants in the fellowship programme have also been invited for a study visit by the Government of China.

13. The study visit to Germany in 2005 included briefings by, and a round-table discussion with, senior officials of the Division for Disarmament and Arms Control of the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, a meeting with the Head of the Parliamentary Subcommittee for Arms Control and Disarmament, and a meeting with the representatives of the German Council on Foreign Relations. The visit also included a guided, highly informative visit to a conversion plant in Pinnow, where

fellows were briefed, inter alia, on the environmentally friendly methods of destruction of weapons and munitions. The study visit by the fellows to Germany in 2006 is expected to include similar activities.

14. The Government of Japan and the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima continued to organize valuable activities for the fellows in 2005. In Tokyo, the fellows were briefed by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Japan's disarmament policy and met with the senior officials from the Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. In Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the fellows met with local officials and visited sites commemorating the atomic bombing. In particular, in Nagasaki they visited the Atomic Bomb Museum, the Peace Park, the Atomic Bomb Home for the Elderly and National Peace Memorial Hall and in Hiroshima, the Atomic Bomb Dome, the Peace Memorial Museum and National Peace Memorial Hall. The fellows also met with survivors and heard lectures on the social and medical legacies of the atomic bombing. The study visit to Japan in 2006 is expected to include similar activities.

15. In 2006, the Government of China has invited the participants in the Programme for a study visit, which will include discussions with senior officials of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as with scholars and representatives from non-governmental organizations. The fellows will also visit the chemical defence research institute of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Third segment

16. The third segment of the programme is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York and is intended to allow the fellows to familiarize themselves with the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Department for Disarmament Affairs in New York. The segment includes a series of lectures by members of delegations to the First Committee and by United Nations officials on items on the agenda of the Committee and the responsibilities of the various branches of the Department, as well as regular attendance by the fellows at meetings of the Committee. The fellows also attend symposiums and panel discussions sponsored by the Department for Disarmament Affairs and the NGO Committee on Disarmament.

17. In 2005, fellows took part in a two-day seminar organized by the Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Monterey Institute of International Studies on various aspects of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, on measures to respond to emerging proliferation threats and on nuclear terrorism.

18. While in New York, the fellows also participate in a group discussion on a selected disarmament topic, moderated by the coordinator of the programme. In addition, the fellows take part in a practical exercise on the preparation of draft resolutions for the First Committee of the General Assembly. The exercise includes a discussion of the drafts prepared by the fellows, introduction of amendments and revisions and, finally, taking action on draft resolutions. In addition, the fellows finalize their research papers and make short presentations of their main theses, which are then discussed by the whole group of fellows.

III. Conclusion

19. Launched in 1979 as a follow-up to a decision of the General Assembly taken at its tenth special session in 1978, the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament is aimed at promoting expertise in disarmament in more Member States, particularly in developing countries. From 1979 to 2006 (inclusive), the programme has trained 704 officials from 155 States. Many alumni hold positions of responsibility in the field of disarmament within their own Governments and their Permanent Missions to the United Nations. In 2005, 53 alumni served in their respective Permanent Missions in Geneva and in New York, and 40 alumni represented their Governments at various disarmament meetings and conferences. The large number of nominations for the programme received every year by the Department for Disarmament Affairs is a testimony of the undiminished interest of Governments in the programme. The role of the programme in enhancing the capabilities of young diplomats for participation in arms control and disarmament deliberations and negotiations is recognized and appreciated by the Member States. The fellowship programme on disarmament was identified by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services as the most successful United Nations training programme it had reviewed (see E/AC.51/1999/2, para. 61).

20. The Secretary-General is gratified that the programme of fellowships on disarmament continues to contribute significantly to developing greater awareness of the importance and benefits of disarmament and better understanding of the concerns of the international community in the field of disarmament and security, as well as to enhancing the knowledge and skills of fellows, allowing them to participate more effectively in efforts in the field of disarmament at all levels. The programme also plays an important role in facilitating better understanding of disarmament and security concerns of Member States and in fostering progress in disarmament, arms limitation and non-proliferation. The Secretary-General also notes with appreciation the increased number of female candidates nominated for the programme over the years and, subsequently, in the number of fellowships granted to them.

21. The Secretary-General expresses his appreciation to all Member States and organizations that have consistently supported the programme throughout the years, thereby contributing to its success. The Secretary-General is particularly grateful to the Governments of Germany and Japan for the continuation of extensive and highly educative study visits for the participants in the programme, as well as to the Government of China for organizing the study visit in 2006.